

Date: Fri, 13 Aug 93 02:29:24 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #975
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Fri, 13 Aug 93 Volume 93 : Issue 975

Today's Topics:

2m HT range; Repeater coordination;Use in AC
Better 2M HT than Radio Shack?
Code learning questions
Huntsville, AL Hamfest info ?
Mobile HF Antennas - Which one?
Railfan Two-Meter Simplex Frequency?
Seeking Dial Cord
Weird 3 meter propagation
What is the next group of calls for Techs.?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Fri, 13 Aug 93 03:31:26 GMT
From: mnemosyne.cs.du.edu!nyx!bdavidso@uunet.uu.net
Subject: 2m HT range; Repeater coordination;Use in AC
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The question on "range of the little 2W HTs" has a lot in common
with the discussion titled "Repeater Coordination". The front
end circuits on modern radios are soooo good you can hear signals
that used to be way way below the capability of ham receivers.
Combine that with a reasonable antenna and you have some pretty
good range possibilities. If a signal path exists, modern
commercial & Ham gear will probably hear the signal.

For example: I routinely work stations to the approximate

"theoretical" radio horizon from a small plane flying at 7000 to 12000 feet AGL (above ground level) on 2 watts in the 2 meter band. That computes to something like 118 to 155 miles. Usually full quieting.

The installed aircraft radios (operating in the range 118-132 MHz) with 10W output don't have anywhere near that sort of range when communicating with ATC (air traffic control) - BY DESIGN. The front end on aviation radios is much less sensitive than 2M gear just to prevent a lot of the long range stuff we're talking about. ATC wants PREDICTABLE communication from a given altitude to ground sites using VHF. So they use predictable power and "less than state of the art" front ends to cause range to be predictable in most all conditions.

Hams have a different goal, so as the capability for lower & lower noise figures evolves (largely driven by the satellite folks) the rest of us benefit as "new generation" front ends replace older ones.

Bill Davidson WB8ZQK - 0811wksh@tiesnet.ties.k12.mn.us

Date: 13 Aug 1993 03:52:56 -0500
From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Better 2M HT than Radio Shack?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Bravo, Dave! I too own a Standard C168A and am dismayed that more people don't look beyond the same old shit when buying an HT. Today, most HT's have the all the bells and whistles, the trick to finding a great HT is in the margins. How long will the battery last? Will I get so much intermod that it's useless on anything but the dummy-load rubber duck that came with it? These are the kinds of questions people should ask when buying an HT thesedays, but how many people do? I always hear people complain about the intermod on their TH-78A or DJ-580 and crappy battery life on their Icom. Well, before you plunk your hard-earned money down, look at what you're buying. An Alinco that gets so much intermod that you can't use it on an external antenna is not a great rig, no matter how cheap. It's nice that a Yaesu FT-530 has 82 memories and dual in-band receive, but what good is that if all you can hear is intermod? The same holds true for the TH-78A, despite it's built in arcade game. The test of an HT is how well you can use it, and the Standard has thus far exceeded all of my expectations, as well as the advertised claims made by Standard. It's also built like a brick shithouse.

Good Luck,

Scott, N9AAT

Date: Fri, 13 Aug 1993 00:19:51 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!col.hp.com!news.dtc.hp.com!srngenprp!alanb@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Code learning questions
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Bruce Perens (bruce@mongo.Com) wrote:

: 1. Am I doing something really wrong? Progress comes very slowly. It's
: getting rather frustrating.

One suggestion: Occasionally put down your pencil and try copying in your head at 25 or so wpm. Don't worry that you are missing much of it -- just relax and try to get the gist of the text. This will force you to get out of the "copy by letter" mode and into the "copy by word" mode which is what you need at the higher speeds.

: 2. I see claims about people copying at astounding rates, some claim 75 WPM.
: Can these people copy random character groups at this speed?

I remember years ago listening to some of the high-speed code boys down on the low end of 40 meters. I copied their 70 wpm sending on tape and played it back at 1/2 speed to see what they were saying. I was amused to note that neither one of them managed to correctly copy the other's callsign during the entire QSO!

: 3. Do most hams who copy at 20 WPM only recognize "the usual QSO words" at
: that rate? I suppose it's enough to pass the test, but I'd hate to be able
: to say nothing more than WX HERE IS HOT RIG IS FT-301D ANT IS ISOL00P TNX
: FER NICE QSO OM 73.

A good CW op can easily copy any normal English text at 20 WPM. Certainly the prevalence of common words makes the job easier. For the longer words, you tend to copy by syllable. In a CW QSO, when you hit an uncommon word, like "syllable," it takes extra concentration, but no big deal. I am a bit rusty, but I think I could copy this posting at 40 wpm CW with little difficulty.

: 4. Is there a "Farnsworth" variation where it is the word space that is
: lengthened rather than the character space? I would think that this would
: aid training in word recognition. Is there any PC software that implements
: this?

One problem with Farnsworth spacing is it tends to disguise the difference between character and word spacing. (They are both so long it's hard to

tell the difference.) You could write a simple Unix script or BASIC program to double or triple all the spaces in an ASCII file to add extra spacing between words.

AL N1AL

Date: Fri, 13 Aug 1993 01:14:57 GMT
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!math.ohio-state.edu!darwin.sura.net!
news.duc.auburn.edu!ducvax.auburn.edu!anderjh@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Huntsville, AL Hamfest info ?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Does anyone have any information on the Huntsville, AL Hamfest this coming weekend? I would like to have some sort of schedule of events and know what the talk in freqs are. Please respond by E-mail to:
ANDERJH@DUCVAX.AUBURN.EDU

Any replies appreciated in advance.
Jamie Anderson KE4DZH

Date: 12 Aug 93 20:08:27 GMT
From: optilink!walsh@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Mobile HF Antennas - Which one?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Date: Thu, 12 Aug 93 22:06:45 GMT
From: walter!porthos!blitzen!karayan@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Railfan Two-Meter Simplex Frequency?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <CBCvsA.5M2@fc.hp.com> dave@fc.hp.com (Dave Hodge) writes:

>Jim Kearman (jkearman@arrl.org) wrote:
>: I recall there is a 2-meter simplex frequency used
>: by radio amateurs who are also railfans. Does
>: anyone know what it is?
>
>Primary: 146.490
>Secondary: 146.565
>--
>

How do railfans/hams (I guess you would call them railhams :-)
use these freqs? Are they used during railfanning trips for
comms?

Well, and I thought _I_ was the only one interested in trains
AND radio. :-)

George Karayannopoulos N2OWO
karayan@cc.bellcore.com Bellcore, Red Bank, NJ
Disclaimer: The opinions expressed here are mine and not my employer's.

Date: Thu, 12 Aug 1993 17:25:23 GMT
From: usc!sdd.hp.com!col.hp.com!news.dtc.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!hplextra!hpcss01!
hpcuhe!donh@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Seeking Dial Cord
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

This will get the attention of the OM's out there! Does anyone know where
I can get some "dial cord". Probably at the same place that sells "Relative
Bearing Grease!". The radio in my 1960 VW bug uses dial cord, and it has
broken. Any help would be appreciated!

* The opinions expressed are mine, and mine alone *
* * *
* WB6LPJ - Cessna 172A N7770T - You can lead a horse to water, but a *
* pencil must be lead. *

Date: 11 Aug 93 14:15:38 GMT
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!darwin.sura.net!news-feed-2.peachnet.edu!concert!
duke!news.duke.edu!ee.ee.duke.edu!jbs@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Weird 3 meter propagation
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <2484ao\$1hb@cville-srv.wam.umd.edu> ham@wam.umd.edu (Scott Richard
Rosenfeld) writes:

>
>Anybody down there in the Raleigh-Durham-Wilmington-Wilson, NC area ever
>heard of WRDU, 106.1 FM?

Offices in Raleigh, N.C.. Not sure where the broadcast tower is but I suspect

it's on the south side of Raleigh at Lake Wheeler.

>Funny, but I was listening to them talk about I-64 this morning, and
>mention the fact that several people had called, saying that the station
>was being heard first in Richmond, and then in the DC area.

>

>A distance of over 300 miles, full quieting. Given the weather patterns
>over the last few days, a colleague here and I guessed Tropo ducting
>as opposed to E-skip. Any other ideas?

Tropo. On my way to work yesterday I talked with a Silver Spring, MD mobile operator on 2m who was running 25 watts - he was into the Hillsborough, N.C. (about 20 miles west of Raleigh) repeater (147.225) with a pretty good signal. Another mobile operator came in full-quieting from I-85 about 10 miles north of the NC/VA border - a distance of about 70 or so miles.

-joe

73 de KD4LLV

--

You spend the night
Like you were spending a dime
- Lyle Lovett

Date: 13 Aug 93 09:04:14 GMT
From: news.service.uci.edu!orion.oac.uci.edu!easu348@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: What is the next group of calls for Techs.?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Does anyone know what the next group of callsigns will be for no-code techs. in the U.S. after the KD's are done? I've heard a rumor that it could be NA---- or that they will just continue with KE----. Just wondering...thanks much.

--

Andrew Parker | KD6TGM | easu348@orion.oac.uci.edu

Date: 13 Aug 1993 03:31:38 GMT
From: usc!math.ohio-state.edu!magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu!jmilhoan@network.ucsd.edu
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <jfhCBMC0B.L9L@netcom.com>, <1993Aug12.153325.23719@ke4zv.uucp>, <140775@netnews.upenn.edu>p
Subject : Re: Bootlegger At ARRL N.E. Convention

In article <140775@netnews.upenn.edu> yee@mipg.upenn.edu (Conway Yee) writes:
>

>As a citizen of the US, you are NOT required to carry around ANY form of
>identification.

Except of course, your Selective Service card if you are male over 18
(dont know what/if max age is)... this way, even through there is no
longer a draft, they can draft you on the spot I guess. ;)

JT

Date: Thu, 12 Aug 1993 20:25:00 GMT
From: admii!ovation!ramcad.pica.army.mil!mellis@nyu.arpa
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <shaw.744744042@aries>, <CBEp8E.89s@murdoch.acc.Virginia.EDU>,
<CBnrnB.AnL@news.iastate.edu>elli
Reply-To : mellis@ramcad.pica.army.mil (Mark Ellis)
Subject : Re: Question on Letter/Word Representations

In article <CBnrnB.AnL@news.iastate.edu>, wjtturner@iastate.edu
(William J Turner) writes:

>
>In article <CBEp8E.89s@murdoch.acc.Virginia.EDU>
>jeg7e@livia.acs.Virginia.EDU (Jon Gefaell) writes:
>>One good place to find these is the ARRL Operations Manual.
>>
>>They are the (I believe) IARU (International Amateur Radio Union)
>official
>>Phoenetic Alphabet. The US Military uses something similar, but
>diferent.
>
>I have noticed no differences between the two. (But I haven't examined
>them
>both *extremely* closely :-)
>
>>
>>Alpha
>[...]
>>Papa
>>Quebec **** SEE COMMENT BELOW ****
>>Romeo
>[...]
>>Zulo
>

>
>Sorry, don't see many corrections. ;-)
>--
>Will Turner, NORDV -----

=====

One interesting thing I picked up when I was flying at a
controlled field in Northern NJ:

I was coming in for landing, and the airport had an automated information
system (ATIS). Frees up the controller from telling each aircraft what
the winds are, etc. It's on a separate freq from tower freq.

ANYWAY, the ATIS said that this was information Kaybek (Kaybec?),
it didn't sound like Quebec. I called into the tower, and said I
had no idea what letter Kaybec represented. The controller laughed
and said that was how he was taught to say "Quebec" at FCC controller
school. I've heard it occasionally pronounced that way since then,
but it's rare.

For your info/amusement/scorn/whatever.

.... Mark E. Ellis <mellis@ramcad.pica.army.mil>
PA&TD Workplace Automation Group
SMCAR-QAH-P, Bldg 62N, Ext. 5817
Picatinny Arsenal, NJ

Date: Fri, 13 Aug 1993 04:22:51 GMT
From: csus.edu!netcom.com!jfh@decwrl.dec.com
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <jfhCBMC0B.L9L@netcom.com>, <1993Aug12.153325.23719@ke4zv.uucp>,
<30722@ksr.com>
Subject : Re: Bootlegger At ARRL N.E. Convention

jfw@ksr.com (John F. Woods) wrote:

>And to directly answer Jack's actual question, though not definitively,
>they would probably find out when your lawyer let them know as part of
>the plea bargaining arrangement. If you refuse to show your license, they
>probably have "probable cause" to arrest you on the spot for unlicensed
>operation (remember, "probable cause" doesn't even have to come close to
>certainty).

Do FCC agents have arrest powers? I didn't think they were sworn peace
officers. Is unlicensed transmission a felony?

--

Jack Hamilton jfh@netcom.com kd6ttl@n0ary.#nocal.ca.us.na (AMPR)
Post Office Box Box 281107 San Francisco, California 94128 USA

Date: Thu, 12 Aug 93 21:36:43 GMT
From: ncrqw2.ncr.com!ncrhub2!torynews!kevin@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Aug12.005214.20557@pixar.com>, <CBnE1J.7Av@sugar.NeoSoft.COM>,
<24dpc4\$pt3@cville-srv.wam.umd.edu>k
Subject : Re: Code learning questions

[First, the ObFlame]:

Uh, wrong thread guys! You know, I think someone's got a program monitoring incoming news looking for keywords like "code", "cw", etc. then auto-posting a flamebait reply. Can't we discuss CW on this net without people turning it into yet another pro-CW/anti-CW flame war? The originator of this thread was just asking a few CW-related questions, there was no opinion expressed one way or another as to the relevancy of CW to incentive licensing!

[Now the CW questions]

Bruce Perens KD6ODT writes:

>1. Am I doing something really wrong? Progress comes very slowly. It's
> getting rather frustrating.

First let me point out that I am not yet an extra class, but I have been able to copy 20 wpm code. Yes it does come slowly, but it is not a steady improvement but rather a series of plateaus. I have noticed that my biggest speed increases seemed to occur coincidental with CW contest operating. Unfortunately as of late I have not had time to get on the air much (not even once in the last month) so I'm afraid I won't be able to copy 20wpm when I do get back. I should've taken the extra code exam right after FD ;-)

>2. I see claims about people copying at astounding rates, some claim 75 WPM.
> Can these people copy random character groups at this speed?

Can't speak for this one.

>3. Do most hams who copy at 20 WPM only recognize "the usual QSO words" at
> that rate? I suppose it's enough to pass the test, but I'd hate to be able
> to say nothing more than WX HERE IS HOT RIG IS FT-301D ANT IS ISOL00P TNX

> FER NICE QSO OM 73.

Certainly the most commonly-used words will be the ones you copy the easiest, simply because you hear them so often you recognize the entire word. I still have difficulty with longer words, but less so if I write down at least some of the letters.

You sort of answered your own question...if it's enough to pass the test, then it's enough for now. Once you pass the test, and get on the ground floor of 20 or 40 meters, you will definitely improve your skill beyond the canned QSO level.

>4. Is there a "Farnsworth" variation where it is the word space that is
> lengthened rather than the character space? I would think that this would
> aid training in word recognition. Is there any PC software that implements
> this?

The SuperMorse program I believe has selectable word spacing. I've never made use of it; I found that word recognition happens naturally for the shorter, commonly-used words. I don't think it will ever happen for the less-commonly-used ones. I personally find I can copy at much higher speeds when the other operator uses short words; if he starts waxing eloquent I have problems.

--

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| [] [] [] [] [] | Kevin Sanders, KN6FQ | NCR Torrey Pines |
| [] [] [] [] [] | kevin.sanders@torreypinesca.ncr.com | (619) 597-3602 |
| [] [] [] [] [] | kevin%beacons@cyber.net | |
| [] [] [] [] [] | | |
| [] [] [] [] [] | Dump MS-DOS. Prevent Programmer Burnout with Linux. | |

Date: 12 Aug 1993 23:46:45 GMT
From: korie!west.West.Sun.COM!news2me.EBay.Sun.COM!exodus.Eng.Sun.COM!
appserv.Eng.Sun.COM!cici!rja@ames.arpa
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Aug12.153325.23719@ke4zv.uucp>, <140775@netnews.upenn.edu>,
<CBnzEB.ICs@news.Hawaii.Edu>e.E
Subject : Re: Bootlegger At ARRL N.E. Convention

In article <CBnzEB.ICs@news.Hawaii.Edu> jherman@uhunix3.uhcc.Hawaii.Edu (Jeff Herman) writes:

+In article <140775@netnews.upenn.edu> yee@mipg.upenn.edu (Conway Yee) writes:
+>

+>As a citizen of the US, you are NOT required to carry around ANY form of
+>identification.

+>

+

+The state of California requires, by law, that you carry some form of
+ID with you. When I was a minor, I was reminded, very sternly, of that
+law by a police officer (it's little incidents like that which one
+remembers for a lifetime....)

Don't take this the wrong way, but:

Police typically have a vested interest in lieing or
strctching the truth in order to keep themselves in
power. Personal experience on my part indicates that
the police are typically ignorant of the laws, or
ignore them, relating to weapons, law, etc.

It is my understanding that until fairly recently there
was NO requirement to carry ID, if you were not operating
a motor vehicle. Urban legend has it that there is at
least one excentric individual who goes around w/out ID
deliberatly, and who then sues municipalities when he's
harassed about it.

The fact is that here in CA, until about 2 months ago, you
could walk around, or ride a bike, w/out ID. The Supreme
Court found however, that in a kindler, gentler, nation
that everyone has to carry ID at all times, or they may
be held for (as I recall) up to 48 hours to confirm their
ID.

--

Robert Allen, rja@sun.com

DISCLAIMER: I said it, not my company.

Congress isn't doing their job. I still have some money left.

Date: 12 Aug 93 17:53:04 GMT
From: ddsww1!indep1!clifto@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Aug9.050804.24086@es.dupont.com>,
<1993Aug10.204713.8552@Rapnet.Sanders.Lockheed.Com>, <jfhCBKoqv.39n@netcom.com>li
Subject : Re: Bootlegger At ARRL N.E. Convention

In article <jfhCBKoqv.39n@netcom.com> jfh@netcom.com (Jack Hamilton) writes:
>Is there another regulation which says that you must show your license to
>the FCC on demand, even if they can't prove you were transmitting?

Well, when applying for a license as this woman was doing, she'd have to

fill out a form 610, which requires you to attach a copy of your current license when applying for the test unless you're applying for a new license. I would think the VEs would want the 610 filled out and the license attached before testing her.

My presumption when reading the original post was that she didn't attach or otherwise acknowledge the existence of a prior license with her name on it, and was applying for an "entry-level" license (can one "upgrade" to a code-free Tech license? Had she had a Novice, it would have been a natural thing to take the code credit and get the 10 meter privileges.).

--

```
+-----+
|  Cliff Sharp  |      clifto@indepl.chi.il.us   OR  clifto@indepl.uucp   |
|   WA9PDM     |                               Use whichever one works   |
+-----+
```

Date: (null)

From: (null)

> One VERY loud 20meter signal comes from Jon, KC0ZFC (I
> may have your call wrong, Jon...sorry it was from memory and you know
> how that goes... ;^) who has a short Bug Catcher on his mail truck:
> about a two foot base stub, a huge coil, cap hat, and 4 foot whip.

Yes, one can often find Jon, KA0ZFX, on HF, and he is always willing to give very helpful advice. I have worked him on 80, 40, and 20 with ease. His installation is featured in "The Mobile HF Handbook" by Dave Ingram, K4TWJ. This book is widely available, and I highly recommend it for anyone who is interested in going HF mobile. There is something in there for everybody. Hope to work you all HF mobile someday!

--

Mark Walsh (walsh@optilink.com) -- UUCP: uunet!optilink!walsh
Amateur Radio: KM6XU@WX3K -- AOL: BigCookie@aol.com -- USCF: L10861
"What, me worry?" - William M. Gaines, 1922-1992
"I'm gonna crush you!" - Andre the Giant, 1946-1993

Date: 12 Aug 1993 19:55:39 GMT

From: topaz.bds.com!topaz.bds.com!ron@uunet.uu.net

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Aug12.005214.20557@pixar.com>,
<VBREAU.LT.93Aug12132834@rinhp750.gmr.com>, <CBntLr.GI7@news.Hawaii.Edu>
Subject : Re: Code learning questions

Coded groups? Plain text was used out here on the east coast. Around

77-78 or so they switched to the ten question style code test, it was still administered by the FCC. You weren't supposed to go back and back fill, but I remember not being under much scrutiny when I took the test (I was sitting with headphones at a slant top school type desk on the far side of the room from where the test proctor lady was).

Since then they've switched over the volunteer examiner session where it's up to the VEC's to design rules for the code tests. The ARRL currently sends about six to seven minutes of a QSO and then has a fill-in-the-blanks type test (you can still qualify with a minutes of solid copy). In addition, the VE's are encouraged to make accomodations for the handicapped and may alter the tests further to make it easier. The FCC rule pretty simply says you have to receive by ear, use all the characters, and the examinee can't know what the text is in advance.

-Ron

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #975
